



Which Way Will the Animal Peek?

Hide an animal puppet behind a pillow and let it appear at playful intervals. Your baby can watch, search, and knock to invite it back.

Helps Your Child Grow

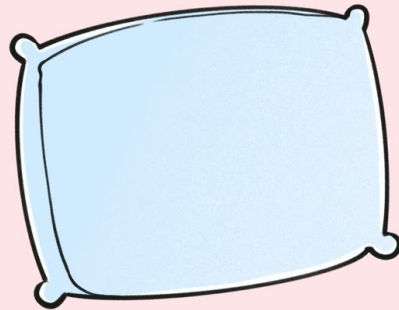


Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Waiting for the animal to reappear and following it from place to place gives your baby a playful reason to sustain attention.



What You'll Need



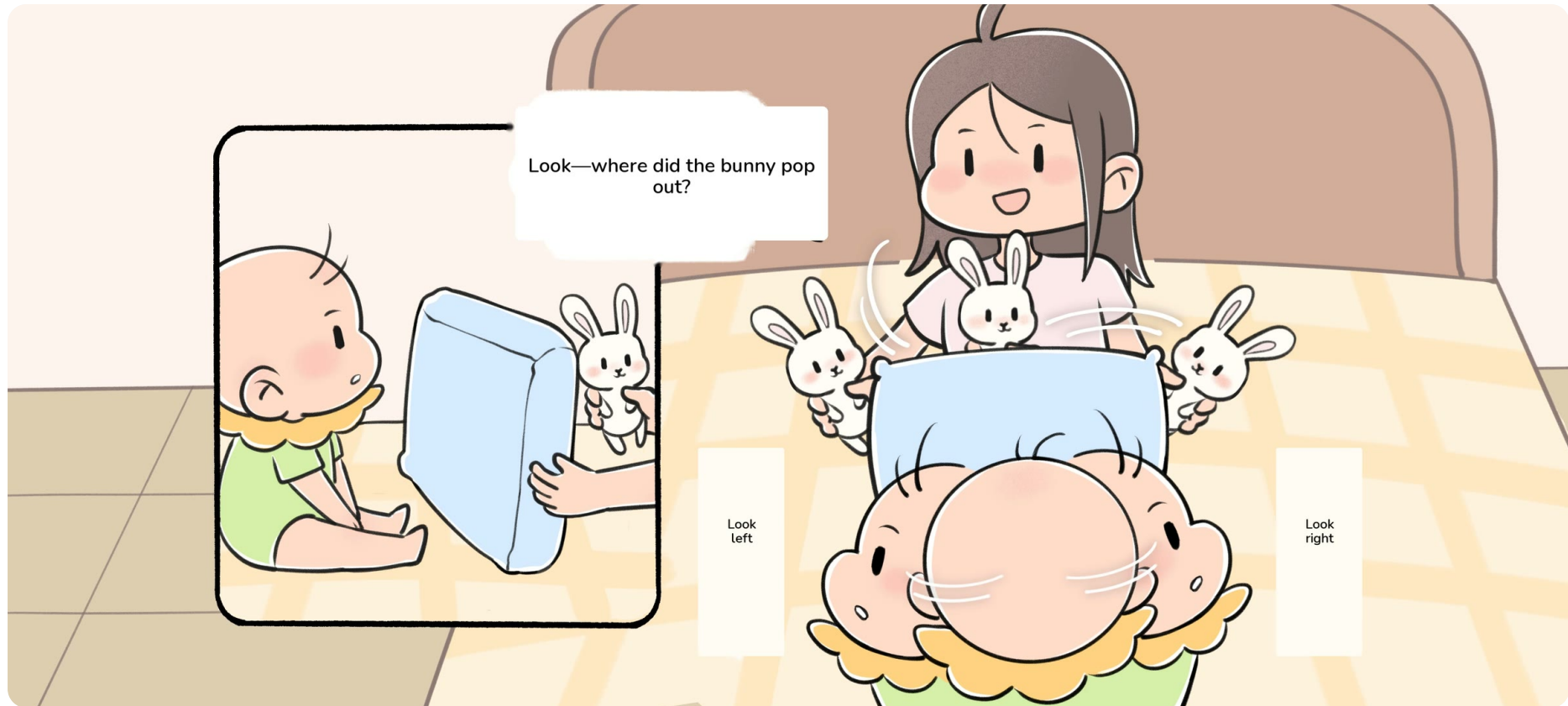
Pillow



Toy bunny

What You'll Need

1. A pillow
2. an animal puppet or stuffed animal



Wait for the Animal

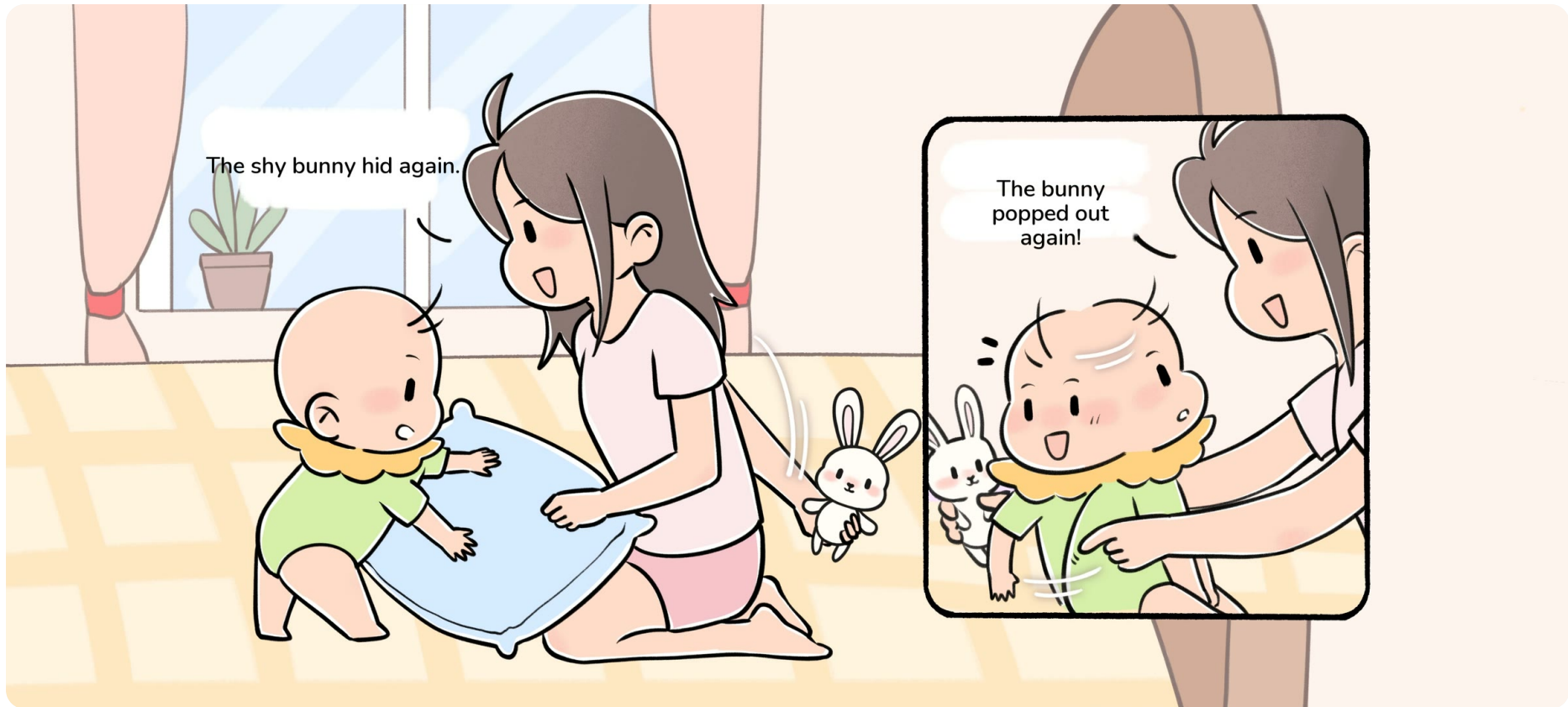
Hide the animal behind a pillow and softly call your baby's attention. Let it peek out and disappear again, timing each appearance to your baby's focus. At first, bring it back before their attention drifts; then gradually make the wait a little longer.

Observations

- Watches the pillow while waiting for the animal to appear
- Turns their head to follow the animal in different directions

Tips

- Looking away, studying their hands, or crawling toward another toy can show that your baby's attention has shifted.
- The repeated surprise gives your baby a reason to keep watching the same place for a little longer.
- Lengthen the interval in small steps based on your baby's response. The change may be subtle at first.



Where Did It Go?

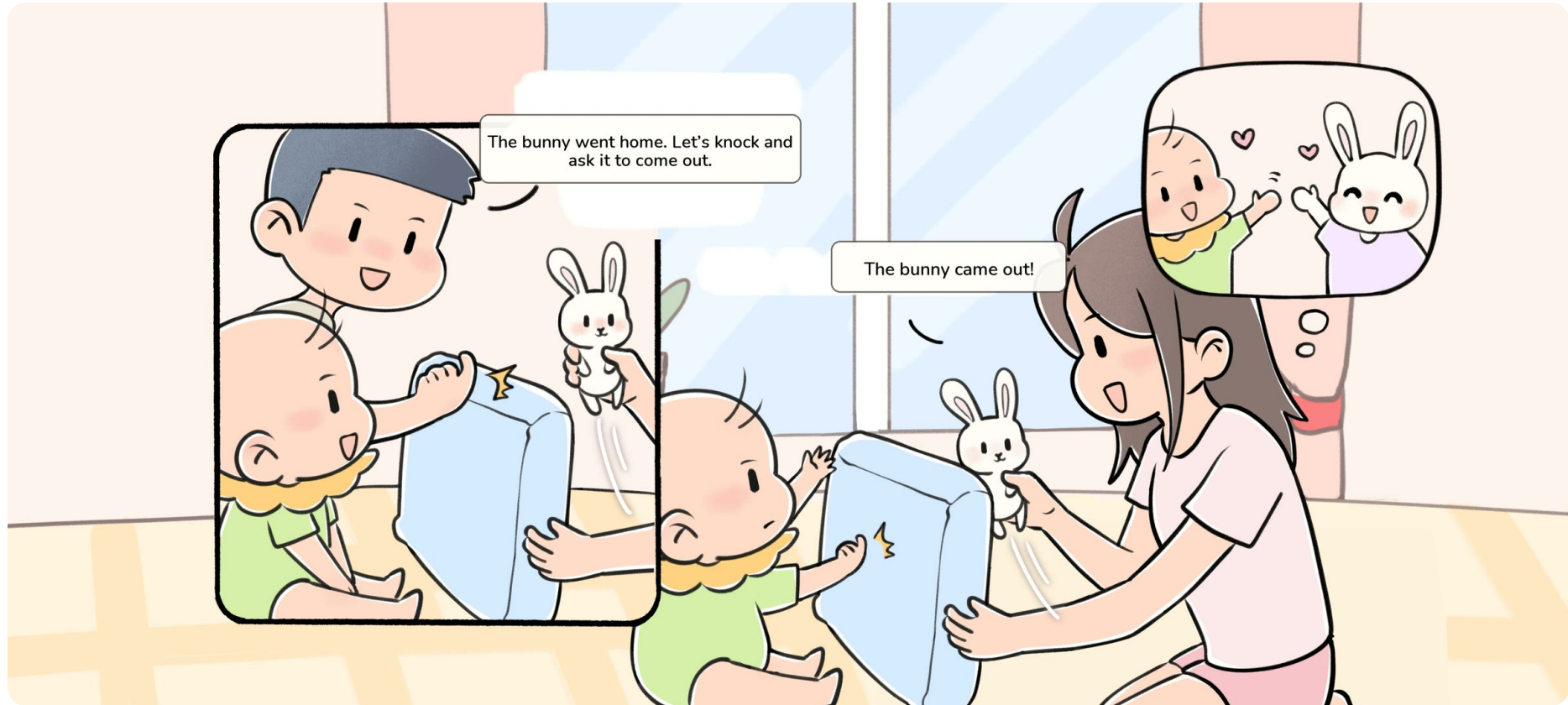
If your baby moves closer to look behind the pillow, quietly move the animal while they are not watching. Let it appear from another place, such as behind your baby, for a small surprise. Then invite your baby back to continue if they want.

Observations

- Looks from side to side when the animal is no longer behind the pillow
- Smiles or claps when the animal appears

Tips

- Your baby may have another idea. Follow their action and adapt the game instead of immediately returning them to the original step.
- Looking from side to side for the missing animal shows that your baby expects it to still exist even when it is out of sight.



Knock and Invite It Out

Ask another caregiver to knock on the pillow as if it were a door, then make the animal appear and say hello. Guide your baby's hand through a knock, then let go. See whether they copy the action and wait for the animal.

Observations

- Watches closely as an adult knocks on the pillow
- Copies the adult by knocking on the pillow

Tips

- The pattern - knock, then the animal appears - can build anticipation and support a longer watch.
- Your baby may need several turns before connecting the knock with the animal's appearance.
- Answer as the animal: "I'm coming!" Pause briefly, then make it peek out and continue the interaction.